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BIKINI - CIVIL SUIT

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII



THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI, by THE BIKINI )
COUNCIL; LORE KESSIBUKI, Magistrate; )
MATRAN NOTE, Scribe; JUKIA JAKEO; TOMAKI)
CULA, JORNEA LEVITICUS; and HENCHI )
EALDS.

Plaintiffs,

Defendants.

vs.

ROBERT C. SEAMANS, JR., Administrator, United States Energy Research and Development Administration; WILLIAM J. STANLEY, Director, Pacific Area Support Office, United States Energy Research and Development Administration; JAMES R.) SCHLESINGER, Secretary of Defense; KENT FRIDZELL, Acting Secretary of Interior; FRED M. ZEDER, Director, Office of Territories, United States Department of Interior; EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; OSCAR DEBRUM, District Administrator, Marshall Islands District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States,

CIVIL NO. 75-348

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NOTICE TO CLERK OF UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF FILING OF COMPLEX LITIGATION

This Notice is filed with the Clerk according to the form and procedure set forth by 1 Pt. 2 Moore's Federal Practice, Pt. 0.23(3). (1973).

### INTRODUCTION

While counsel for Plaintiffs do not believe the preliminary stages of this litigation present particularly inusual or difficult problems for purposes of mechanical mandling of this case, it is our judgment that later phases

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of the case, after the hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Enjunction, do present special and unique problems bringing this case within the definition of "Complex Litigation" set forth in Moore's Federal Practice. That is so because this case will involve a need for certification of a class as a Rule 23 class action, because it will involve a possible need for a Multi-District Panel during the later phases of discovery and because problems of communication and logistics among attorneys and Defendants spread over ten time zones from Saipan to Washington will undoubtedly necessitate special procedures for handling of notices and hearings. Finally, the subject matter of the litigation is Environmental Impact of the post world war II nuclear testing program of the United States, one of the technologically most sophisticated series of transactions in history.

### APPOINTMENT OF LEAD COUNSEL

Plaintiffs hereby advise the Court that they have agreed as suggested by Moore's Federal Practice, upon lead counsel for all phases of the litigation. George M. Allen of the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) Marshalls Office, is hereby appointed lead counsel for Plaintiffs for all phases of litigation.

It is suggested that if Defendants can agree upon appointment of either lead counsel, representing all agencies or, at the very least, liason counsel, such a step will facilitate the handling of communications and logistics.

### MULTI-DISTRICT PROBLEMS

Counsel for Plaintiffs are not aware, at this time, of what other litigation may presently be pending elsewhere

which has relevance to the substantive issues in this case. The first phase of interrogatories, which are being served contemporaneous with the filing of this action, upon all Defendants, seek information from Defendants as to other litigation which may be presently pending involving similar or identical factual issues or issues of law to those related to this case.

Only after counsel for both sides have had an opportunity to canvass other districts will it be possible to determine whether there is need for appointment of a multi-district panel or for special multi-district handling of discovery or any other phase of this litigation.

Counsel for Plaintiffs believe, at this time, that it is <u>probable</u> that there is other pending litigation which will be relevant to this case and that attention to multi-district problems at the earliest possible date is warranted.

### PROBLEMS OF LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The difficulty of virtually all forms of communications and transportation within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, combined with the geographic sprawl of counsel and parties will inevitably require special handling of this litigation.

Counsel for Plaintiffs believe it wise to identify particular problems at this stage in order that they can be dealt with at the First Pre-Trial Conference. Among the problems which can be identified at this time are the following:

l. Kili Island, where most of the Plaintiffs and the class members whom they represent now live is inaccessible from four to six months each year because of winter surf

conditions. Regular access to Kili under the best conditions is difficult, being by Field Trip Ship from Majuro, via Jaluit, a trip of at least four days' duration, on a basis of scheduling which is, at best, erratic.

For example, at the present time, two of Plaintiffs' most important witnesses for the hearing on the Motion for Preliminary Injunction, Lore Kessibuki, the Magistrate of the Bikini Council and Tomaki Juda, one of the named Plaintiffs, live on Kili Island. Winter surf conditions will commence in November and continue through April or May. Thus, it is necessary that the Motion for Preliminary Injunction be heard at the earliest possible date in order that these two witnesses can return to Majuro to take the Field Trip Ship to Kili before surf conditions become such that they would be unable to return to their present homes and to their families for a period of six months.

Communication between Kili and the Marshalls
District Office of MLSC at Majuro is solely by radio telephone,
a situation which obtains for all attorney client communication
between counsel for Plaintiffs at Majuro and all of the Bikini
People except for those who live on Majuro.

The radio telephone communications are on open circuits, making confidential communication between counsel and clients impractical.

Voice communication between Majuro and either Saipan or elsewhere in the world is difficult to impossible and, in any event, cannot be relied upon as a means of communication. Cables are transmitted over open circuits, again making confidential communication among counsel for Plaintiffs impractical except by means of regular mail.

Regular mail requires substantial periods of time because Majuro is served by air on an every-other-day basis, with a flight eastbound three days a week and a flight westbound three days a week. There is no plane on Sunday.

### LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

While some of the named Plaintiffs and persons they represent are bi-lingual, in both English and Marshallese, most of the members of the Bikini community read and write Marshallese only.

None of the counsel for Plaintiffs is, at this point, able to speak or read Marshallese. George M. Allen, a lead counsel, is presently learning the Marshallese language.

Appointment of one or more official translators will be necessary for handling of court proceedings where witnesses must testify in Marshallese.

Additionally, some expert testimony may come from witnesses whose only language or primary language is Japanese. The subject matter of this litigation involve nuclear testing and its consequences. A related field of expertise is radiation medicine, a field in which Japanese doctors and scientists are expert and to which they have contributed a substantial body of scientific research and literature. There may be need for translation from English to Japanese and vice versa as well as from English to Marshallese and vice versa.

### PROCEEDINGS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

There may be necessity or desirability for some proceedings, including both discovery and taking of evidence, to take place outside the District of Hawaii. For example, it may be necessary or desirable for the Court to view and inspect the prospective living places of the Plaintiffs in

the Marshall Islands; it may be necessary or desirable for the Court to take testimony and receive other evidence in the Marshall Islands in order to avoid transportation of numerous witnesses to Honolulu and it may be necessary or desirable for evidence to be taken in Washington D.C., the location of many expert witnesses and agency officials of the Defendant Agencies.

### COOPERATION AMONG COUNSEL AND COURT

Obviously, the maximum possible cooperation among counsel and court will be required for this litigation to be handled expeditiously. Plaintiffs' counsel will make every possible effort to be cooperative with the Court and with all other counsel at all times in order to avoid difficulties which would otherwise ensue.

### FIRST PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE

It is respectfully submitted a preliminary pre-trial conference should be held at the earliest possible date, either immediately preceding or immediately following the Hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, in order to address the potential problems of this litigation and agree upon preliminary ground rules for handling them at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted.

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

### FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI, by THE BIKINI )
COUNCIL; LORE KESSIBUKI, Magistrate; )
MATHAN NOTE, Scribe; JUKIA JAKEO: TOMAKI)
DUDA: JORNEA LEVITICUS; and HENCHI )
BALOS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

ROBERT C. SEAMANS, JR., Administrator, United States Energy Research and Development Administration; WILLIAM J. STANLEY, Director, Pacific Area Support Office, United States Energy Research and Development Administration; JAMES R.) SCHLESINGER, Secretary of Defense; KENT FRIZZELL, Acting Secretary of Interior; FRED M. ZEDER, Director, Office of Territories, United States Department of Interior; EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: OSCAR DEBRUM, District Administrator, Marshall Islands District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States,

Defendants.

CIVIL NO.

CIV 75-0348

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COMM LOSSING OF MARKET

at 4 o'clock and 4 min 1975

WALTER AYH, CHIRIN, WEEK 1993

Deputy

### VERIFIED COMPLAINT

### SUMMONS

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# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

THE MEOPLE OF BIKINI, by THE BIKINI )
COUNTY LORE RESSIBUKI, Magistrate; )
NATH OF NOTE, Scribe; JUKIA JAKEO; TOMAKI)
JULY JORMEA LEVITICUS; and HENCHI )
BALLO. )

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Defendants.

# VERIFIED COMPLAINT

We, the people of Bikini, come before this Court as Plaintiffs and through our attorneys, allege as follows:

### INTRODUCTION

L. We, as hereditary and elected leaders of Bikini, bring this action on behalf of the People of Bikini, to compel Defendants in, develop, and implement the Bikini resettlement program in cordance with their obligations under the National Environment. Policy Act and Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Caprasse Mandated Islands.

CIVIL NO.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The Court has jurisdiction of this action under the Mational Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§4321 et seq.; the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands, 61 Stat. 3301, T.I.A.S. No. 1665; 28 U.S.C. §1331; 28 U.S.C. §1361; and 28 U.S.C. §2201. The matter in controversy exceeds the value of ten thousand dollars, exclusive of interest and costs. Venue is properly laid in in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391.

#### PARTIES

### Plaintiffs

- 3. All of us, the Plaintiffs, are citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (also known as Micronesia) and are residents of the Marshall Islands District. All of us, furthermore, were residents of Bikini Atoll at the time of that atoll's evacuation in 1946 prior to Operation Crossroads, the first of the American atomic tests in the Pacific, or are direct descendants of such residents.
- a. Plaintiff Bikini Council is the governing body of the Bikini community. Membership in the Council is determined in accordance with our custom and tradition.
- b. Plaintiff Lore Kessibuki is a citizen of the Trust
  Territory of the Pacific Islands, a member of the Bikini community,
  and is Magistrate of our community. As such, he is the highest
  executive official of our community. Plaintiff Kessibuki was
  born on Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, in 1910. He was
  a resident of Bikini Atoll until his relocation therefrom in 1946
  prior to the Operation Crossroads nuclear tests. He now lives
  on Kili Island in the Marshall Islands.

- Territory of the Pacific Islands and a member of the Bikini community. He holds the position of Scribe within our community. He was born on Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, in 1913. He was residing at Ailinglaplap Atoll in the Marshall Islands in 1946 when the members of the Bikini community present on Bikini Atoll were relocated from that atoll prior to the Operation Crossroads nuclear tests. He is presently living at Jaluit Atoll in the Marshall Islands.
- d. Plaintiff Jukia Jakeo is a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and a member of the Bikini community. Hewas born on Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. He was a resident of Bikini Atoll in 1946 when all members of our community present on Bikini Atoll were relocated therefrom prior to the Operation Crossroads nuclear tests. He now resides on Bikini Island at Bikini Atoll.
- e. Plaintiff Tomaki Juda is a citizen of the Trust
  Territory of the Pacific Islands and a member of our community.
  He was born on Bikini Atoll in 1940 and resident there until
  his relocation therefrom in 1946 prior to the Operation
  Crossroads nuclear tests. He now lives on Kili Island in the
  Marshall Islands.
- f. Plaintiff Jormea Leviticus is a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and a member of our community. He was born on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in 1936 and resided there until his relocation therefrom in 1946 prior to the Operation Crossroads nuclear tests. From late 1972 until July 1975, he resided on Bikini Island in Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. He is now living on Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

g. Plaintiff Henchi Balos is a citizen of the Trust
Territory of the Pacific Islands, and a member of our community.
He was born on Bikini Atoll in 1945 and resided there until
his relocation therefrom in 1946 prior to the Operation Crossroads
nuclear tests. He now lives on Majuro Atoll in the Marshall
Islands.

Rales of Civil Procedure, on behalf of ourselves and all others similarly situated, including all living persons who were residents of Bikini Atoll prior to the 1946 evacuation and all living despendents of such persons.\* The members of the class on behalf of whom we bring this action are so numerous as to make it impractical to bring them all before the Court. There are common questions of law and fact, and our claims are typical of the claims of the class. We will adequately and fairly protect the interests of the class. Defendants have acted, and refused to act, on grounds generally applicable to the entire class, thereby making appropriate final declaratory and injunctive relief with respect to the class as a whole.

### Defendants

- 3. Defendant Robert C. Seamans, Jr., is Administrator of the United States Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), which, as of January 19, 1975, assumed all functions of the United States Atomic Energy Commission relevant herein. As Administrator of ERDA, defendant Seamans is the principal executive official of ERDA. Upon information and relief, he is a resident of Washington, D.C.
- 9. Defendant William J. Stanley is Director of the Pacific Area Support Office of the United States Energy Research and Development Administration. As Director of the Pacific Area Support Office, defendant Stanley is the principal executive

<sup>\*</sup>Nine members of our Bikini community were absent from Bikini Atvil at the time of the 1946 evacuation for reasons of employment, hospitalization, or education. We consider them and their descendants to be within the class.

ifficer of the Pacific Area Support Office. Upon information and belief, he is a resident of Oahu Island, Hawaii.

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- As Secretary of Defense, defendant Schlesinger is the principal federal official encharged with the responsibility to ensure that the activities of the Department of Defense are carried out in accordance with the law. Upon information and belief, he is a resident of Washington, D.C.
- As acting Secretary of the Interior, defendant Frizzell is the principal federal official with direct responsibility for the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He holds all executive, legislative, and judicial powers in the Trust Territory, and determines the manner in which those powers are exercised in the Trust Territory. Upon information and belief, he is a resident of Washington, D.C.
- 12. Defendant Fred M. Zeder is Director of the Office of Territories in the Department of the Interior. As Director of the Office of Territories, defendant Zeder has direct responsibility for assuring that the activities of the Department of the Interior in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands are carried out in accordance with the law. Upon information and belief, he is a resident of Washington, D.C.
- 13. Defendant Edward E. Johnston, a citizen of the United States is High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. As High Commissioner, defendant Johnston is the leading official of the executive branch of the Trust Territory government. Appointed to his position by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate, he is succeed to the supervision and direction of, and control by, the

Secretary of the Interior, and by other persons, including defendant Zeder, in the chain of command of the Department of the Interior. Authority exercised by him as High Commissioner is derived solely from the Government of the United States and is an exercise of the authority of the United States in the Trust Territory. Defendant Johnston officially resides on Saipan, in the Mariana Islands, part

- Marshall Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. As District Administrator, defendant DeBrum is the principal executive official in the government of the Marshall Islands district. Defendant DeBrum was appointed to his position by the High Commissioner, is subject to the supervision and direction of, and control by, the High Commissioner, and serves at the pleasure of the High Commissioner. Defendant DeBrum is a citizen of the Trust Territory and a resident of Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands District of the Trust Territory.
- States. As President, defendant Ford is successor to former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who ordered the commencement of the Bikini resettlement program. Defendant Ford is the only federal official with executive authority over all government agencies involved in the Bikini resettlement program. In addition, defendant Ford has constitutional responsibility for the faithful execution of the laws and treaties of the United States, including the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands.

  Fresident Ford officially resides in Washington, D.C.

### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

### Background

of the Trust Territory.

16. Bikini Atoll is located in the Ralik Chain of the Marshall Islands, north of the Equator, in the west-central part of the

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Finitio Ocean between eleven degrees twenty-nine minutes (11°29') and eleven degrees forty-three minutes (11°43') north latitude and between one hundred sixty-five degrees eleven minutes (165°11') and one hundred sixty-five degrees thirty-five minutes (165°35') east longitude.

- 17. The Marshall, Caroline and Mariana Islands are the component parts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (hereinafter "the Trust Territory"), also known as Micronesia.
- 18. Micronesia is located in the Western Pacific and consists of more than 2,000 islands and atolls with a total land area of approximately 687 square miles dispersed throughout an ocean area of more than 3,000,000 square miles.
- 19. Pursuant to a Congressional Joint Resolution of July 18, 1927, 51 Stat. 397, President Harry S. Truman approved, on behalf · Wife - Mar of the United States, the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands (hereinafter "the Trusteeship Agreement"), 61 Stat. 3301, T.I.A.S. No. 1665. The Trusteeship Agreement between **公文发现**。1000年后 the United Nations and the United States imposes fiduciary obligations upon the United States. These obligations were assumed by the **子世界** 本 United States expressly for the benefit of the people of the Trust Territory, including ourselves, the people of Bikini Atoll. Pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement, the United States promised to:

- . . promote the development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence [Article 6(1)];
- . . . develop their participation in government [Article 6(1)];
- . . give due recognition to the customs of the inhabitants in providing a system of law for the territory [Article 6(1)];
- . . . promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants . . . [Article 6(2)];
- . . . protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources . . . Larticle  $\delta(2)$ ; -6-

. . . protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all elements of the population without discrimination . . [Article 6(3)]; and

. . protect the health of the inhabitants  $\cdot \cdot \cdot [$ Article 6(3)].

The Trusteeship Agreement creates substantive rights for its ceneficiaries which are judicially enforceable.

- 20. President Truman initially delegated administrative responsibility for the Trust Territory to the Secretary of the Navy in 1947. Exec. Order No. 9875, 12 F.R. 4837, 3 C.F.R. 658 (1943-48 Samp.). In 1951, administrative responsibilities were transferred to the Department of the Interior. Exec. Order No. 10265, 16 F.R. 5-19, 3 C.F.R. 766 (1949-53 Comp.). The Marshall Islands, including Bikini Atoll, have been administered by the Department of the Interior since 1951.
- 21. In 1954, Congress passed an Enabling Act, 48 U.S.C. LUNE WILL 33 1531 et seq., providing for the continuance of civil government in the Trust Territory. Section 1681(a) contains the following provisions:

Until Congress shall further provide for the government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, all executive, legislative, and judicial authority necessary for the civil administration of the Trust Territory shall continue to be vested in such person or persons and shall be exercised in such manner and through such agency or agencies as the President of the United States may direct or authorize.

22. President John F. Kennedy delegated to the Secretary of the Interior the responsibility for the civil administration of all of the Trust Territory in 1962. Exec. Order No. 11021, 27 F.R. 4409, 3 J.F.R. 600 (1959-63 Comp.). Section 2 of this Order provides that the authority given to the Secretary of the Interior "may be exercised through such officers or employees of the Department of the Interior, or through such other persons under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, as the Secretary may designate, and shall be exercised in such manner as the Secretary, or any person or persons acting

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mader the authority of the Secretary, may direct or authorize." As more fully set forth in paragraphs 23 through 28 below, the Trust Territory, for all material purposes, is governed and controlled by the Thited States. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and other subordinate officials are agents of the Secretary of the Interior.

- 23. The Secretary of the Interior has the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the Trust Territory. He is assisted by the Director of the Office of Territories.
- 24. The Department of the Interior reviews the budget of the Trust Territory and submits it to the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Congress appropriates the budget. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, by virtue of Department of the Interior Order No. 2918, Part II, § 6, is required to obtain the prior approval of the Secretary of the Interior for any significant deviation from the budget justification presented to the U.S. Congress and for any significant transfer of funds between programs or between administration and construction funds.
- 25. In Department of the Interior Order No. 2918, dated
  December 27, 1968, the Secretary of the Interior proclaimed that
  "[t]he executive authority of the Government of the Trust
  Territory . . . shall be vested in a High Commissioner of the
  Trust Territory and shall be exercised and discharged under the
  supervision and direction of the Secretary."

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26. The executive branch of the Trust Territory Government includes a High Commissioner, a Deputy High Commissioner, and various "cabinet" officers. The President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate, appoints the High Commissioner. The Secretary of the Interior appoints the Deputy High Commissioner. The High Commissioner appoints the "cabinet" officers, who have often been U.S. citizens. Trust Territory citizens are given no opportunity to

note for or against any member of the executive branch, and they have no power to effect the removal of a member of the executive branch for any reason.

- 27. The justices of the Trust Territory High Court are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. They have no term of office and are subject to removal from the High Court by the Secretary at his pleasure. The people of the Trust Territory have no control over the identities of the persons appointed and no power to effect the removal of a judge for any reason.
- 28. The Congress of Micronesia is a bicameral legislature sleated by the people of the Trust Territory. Although it can examine appointments to cabinet level positions, its advice and consent power is limited. It has no authority whatsoever to examine the appointment of judges. Bills passed by the Congress of Micronesia can be, and often are, vetoed by the High Commissioner. The Secretary of the Interior can veto any bill passed over the High Commissioner's veto. The Secretary's veto cannot be overridden by the Congress of Micronesia. In addition, the Secretary of the Interior retains the power to impose legislation upon the people of the Trust Territory without the concurrence of the Congress of Micronesia. This power was exercised as recently as December, 1974. Department of the Interior Order No. 2969, December 26, 1974.

### Our Exile From Bikini

29. Bikini Atoll is our home. Our ancestors settled the Atoll long before the Russian explorer Otto Von Kotzebue became, in 1824, the first European to discover the Atoll. We have resided there since time immemorial until exiled by the United States in 1946 to make way for nuclear testing.

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30. In early 1946 we were removed by the United States from our ancestral homeland because Bikini Atoll had been selected as a nuclear test site by the United States. We did not desire relocation, but we had no real alternative other than submission to the plans

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the United States. At the time of the move, we were promised the return of our island when the need for it as a testing site ended and when residual radioactivity no longer constituted a hazard to our health.

- 31. In 19-6, and prior thereto, although we occasionally purphased imported items, we primarily relied upon the resources of Bikini Atoll and its lagoon for the satisfaction of all our material needs. We were also able to produce copra for export to provide us with funds for those imported items we did purchase. Although our standard of living may have been low when measured by the terms identified with "Western" or modern civilization, we were in the main economically self-sufficient and not unhappy with our lot.
- 32. From Bikini Atoll we were removed to Rongerik Atoll, also in the Ralik Chain of the Marshall Islands, some 130 miles east of Bikini Atoll.
- cent the land area of Bikini Atoll and encloses a lagoon of less than one-quarter the area of the lagoon at Bikini Atoll. The life-sustaining occonut palms and pandanus on Rongerik Atoll were, when we arrived, considerably less productive than those on Bikini Atoll, and the quantity and quality of fish and other marine fauna in the lagoon of Rongerik were markedly inferior to those of Bikini. Many of the species of fish we commonly ate at Bikini proved to be toxic in Rongerik's waters.
- 3-. As a result of the inadequate food supplies at Rongerik Atoll, we were eventually reduced to a condition of near-starvation. In early 19-1, the military government of the Trust Territory sent an American anthropologist to Rongerik Atoll to investigate the conditions there. He reported correctly that we had been cutting down the young palm trees in order to eat the heart-of-palm (the taking of which wills the tree), because there was nothing else

such poor quality that they could not produce the sennit we needed to lash our fishing canoes together and to serve as rigging. On January 31, 1943, the only food on the island was one bag of flour, which was mixed with a little water and doled out to the 167 of us resident there at that time. All ripe pandanus and coconut fruits had long since been eaten, along with the only fish that could be produced, a small slightly poisonous butterfly fish. In response to emergency messages, a doctor and emergency supplies were flown to Rongerik in February, 1948. The doctor examined us and pronounced our condition to be that of a starving people.

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- 35. As a consequence of the grave situation on Rongerik, on March 14, 1948, we were moved by the U.S. Navy to the, for us totally alien environment of the U.S. military base at Kwajalein Atoll.
- 36. The stay at Kwajalein was never intended to be other than temporary, and in late 1948 we were moved to the island of Kili, also in the Ralik Chain of the Marshalls, but about 500 miles south southeast of Bikini Atoll.
- 37. Kili is an island, not an atoll. Kili has neither allagoon nor sheltered fishing grounds. Because of the absence of a lagoon and the fact that Kili's longitudinal axis lies almost parallel to the northeast tradewinds, from late October to late spring each year there is no protected anchorage, and the island is virtually cut off from access by vessel during this period. The high surf conditions that predominate during this part of the year also greatly restrict our deep-sea fishing efforts.
- 38. Kili Island's 230 acres are approximately one-sixth the land area of Bikini Atoll and about one-half the land area of Bikini Island, which was our principal inhabited island at Bikini Atoll. Although Kili Island contains better soil than Bikini Atoll, when relocated there we were neither accustomed to nor skilled in the intensive agricultural techniques necessary to making Kili Island principal is the same time, our considerable skills instaking

-11

successance from the marine environment were rendered useless.

- 39. Life on Mili Island has never been pleasant for us. As noted above, vestel access to the island is severely restricted during a large part of the year. But even during the months when vessels can safely approach the island, there has been a shortage of "field trip" vessels to make the trip. Infrequent field trips have meant that the copra (dried meat of the coconut, the principal source of cash income in the Marshall Islands) that we produce is left to spoil or to be eaten by the rats, a strong disincentive to future copra production. In 1949, 1950, and 1952, we were again the victims of serious food shortages, severe enough that in 1952 food was air-dropped to us (unfortunately, without the aid of parachutes, so that most of the food was smashed and rendered inedible).
- destruction on Kili, killing all the taro (by virtue of salt-water intrusion into the taro swamps) and fifty per cent of the breadfruit trees, serious food shortages again became common on Kili, especially in 1958 and 1960, when C-rations and other emergency foodstuffs were brought to the island. Another serious food shortage occurred in the 1968-1969 winter season.
- the extremely adverse conditions there, because we have no other place to go without fragmenting our community beyond hope of reconstitution. Even those of us who have left Kili to reside in other parts of the Marshall Islands retain strong affiliations with and logalities to the Bikini community on Kili.

### The Bikini Proving Ground

-2. On March 29, 1944, a small group of Japanese soldiers manning a weather station on Bikini Atoll committed suicide rather than surrender to a not-much-larger landing party of American troops.

That fate marks the beginning of the American administration of the American admini

-3. On February 10, 1946, the American military governor of the Marshall Islands announced to us that our atoll had been selected as the "best" site in the world for the testing of nuclear devices and that, as a consequence, we would have to be relocated. Less than one month later, on March 5, 1946, we were taken to Rongerik Atoll. The United States had previously detonated three nuclear devices, at Alamogordo, New Mexico, and at Hiroshima and Magasaki.

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-4. On June 30, 1946, the United States, as part of Operation Orossroads, detonated at Bikini Atoll a nuclear explosion known as shot "Able." By July 22, 1958, the time of the last nuclear detenation at Bikini Atoll, shot "Juniper" (a part of Operation Hardtack, Phase II), the United States had detonated twenty-three (23) nuclear devices at Bikini Atoll. Among these was the February 28, 195-, shot "Bravo", the first hydrogen bomb dropped from any American airplane, a thermonuclear device of a yield equivalent to fifteen million tons of TNT. Shot Bravo, the largest single explosion ever detonated by the United States, caused a total area of over 7,300 square miles to be contaminated to such an extent that avoidance of death or radiation injury was dependent on evacuation of the area or the taking of protective measures. This blast annihilated three smaller islands and portions of others and excavated an additional pass from the ocean to the lagoon. At the conclusion of the nuclear tests, most of the coconut palms and other plants of economic value had been destroyed. aboll became covered by dense scrub vegetation and a massive amount of equipment and other debris left from the tests cluttered the islands and beaches.

-5. As a result of the 23 nuclear devices which were detonated at Bikini Atoll, the entire environment, including marine and terrestrial areas, was contaminated with a very large amount of radioactivity. A number of the radionuclides which were introduced into the Eikini environment by nuclear testing area.

dangerous in their effect upon human beings. Among these, to mention only a few, are Plutonium-239, Cesium-137, Strontium-90, Cotalt-60 and Americium-241. These and other radioactive elements were introduced into the environment of our atoll so that they are now present in the lagoon and ground water, the lagoon sediments, the soil on the islands and in virtually every form of life on the atoll, including fish, shell fish and coconut crabs. Also, some of the dangerous radioactive materials in the soil and water will be taken up by pandanus and breadfruit trees and concentrated in the fruit.

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- a result of the nuclear testing there by the United States is a potentially serious problem for us. We want to return to Bikini atoll, but we in not want to suffer any illness in ourselves, nor no we want our children to suffer as a result of radioactivity. Some of the radioactivity caused by the testing program can hurt is if we are near it or live around it. Other kinds can hurt us if it gets inside our body through the drinking water or through food grown on the Atoll. Other kinds of radioactivity are there which are dangerous if they are inhaled. Depending upon the kind of radioactivity and the way it effects the human body, it can have a serious adverse effect upon our health and it can also adversely effect future generations of our people.
- -7. The testing of nuclear weapons at Bikini Atoll was essential to the security of the people of the United States.

  Tests of nuclear devices and nuclear weapons designs was indispensable to production of a nuclear weapons stockpile with which the United States could defend itself from its enemies from attack.
- The choice of our Atoll for nuclear testing was made by President Harry S. Truman. One of the principal reasons he selected Bikini is its great distance from the United States.

  He iii not want the people of the United States to be endangered to tarmed by the radioactivity produced by the nuclear explosions

- 23. Nuclear testing performed at Bikini Atoll between 23.4 and 1953, was an integral part of the United States nuclear reasons development program. We do not know exactly how much money the United States spent to develop, test and produce its. Nuclear weapons, but we are informed and believe that between 19-1 and 1959 the United States government invested at least \$20,587,900,000. But for the testing of nuclear explosive devices and finished weapons at Bikini and Enewetak Atolls, most or all of that money would have been wasted, or it would have cost the United States much more in money and time to accomplish the same result.
- Eikini Atoll, we were not given the option of remaining at Bikini.

  Throughout the almost 30 years that have passed since our exile

  From Eikini, we have expressed our desire to return to Bikini Atoll
- 31. We are informed and believe that the decisions to remove us from Bikini Atoll, to conduct nuclear testing there and to detonate each nuclear device were all made with the express others and under the express direction of the President of the United States.
- 52. Cur desire to return to our ancestral homeland is only partially understandable to most Americans, even those who have not succumbed to this modern age of mobility and frequent changes in residence. Eikini Atoll is typical of Marshallese atolls in that its highest elevation is only a few feet above sea level. Most of that a person sees, standing at that highest elevation, is the sea and the lagoon. That thin circumference of islands and reef that is of tremendous importance to us.
- 53. Because land is obviously scarce in the Trust Territory,

  Sew Micronesian peoples regard land as a commodity or as a mere

  Pactor of production. Land is the essential element of Micronesian

  existence. Ties to the land are therefore unusually strong throughout

  Micronesia. These ties are particularly strong in our densely-populated

Marshall Islands, where over 25,000 people live on a total of 69 square miles of land.

52. The traditional Marshallese system of land tenure has been developed over hundred of years and is peculiarly adapted to our needs:

The Marshallese system of land tenure provides for all eventualities and takes care of the needs of all of the members of the Marshallese society. It is, in effect, its social security. Under normal conditions no one need go hungry for lack of land from which to draw food. There are no poor houses or old people's homes in the Marshall Islands. The system provides for all members of the Marshallese society, each of whom is born into land rights.

- J. Totin, "Land Tenure in the Marshall Islands" in Land Tenure

  Patterns in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (J. deYoung
  ed. 1958). Pursuant to its obligation under Article 6(1) of the

  Trusteeship Agreement, the United States has given recognition to
  the customs of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory and has not
  altered the traditional land tenure system in the Marshall Islands
  in any significant way.
- 55. Our exile from Bikini Atoll for almost thirty years and our relocation to Rongerik, then to Kwajalein, and finally to Kili has had and continues to have severe adverse effects upon the internal cohesion, social structure, and morale of our originally vital community.
- 55. On November 9, 1956, at a meeting with our community on Kili Island, the then-High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Delmas H. Nucker, told us that the United States Government did not want to keep Bikini Atoll forever and that when our atoll was no longer needed by the United States, and when it became safe to live on again, we could return.
- 57. Responding to our pleas, in late 1966 the then-Secretary of the Interior requested that the Atomic Energy Commission determine the condition of Bikini Atoll and make an evaluation of whether we could safely return to our atoll.

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53. In 1967, the Atomic Energy Commission, predecessor to the Energy Research and Development Administration, conducted a survey of Eikini Atoll to determine whether we could return safely to our homeland

59. An Ai Hos Committee was appointed by the Atomic Energy Commission to review the results of the 1967 Atomic Energy Commission survey and to make recommendations thereon. The Ad Hoc Committee unanimously concluded that "it would be radiologically safe to allow the Bikini people to return to their home atoll." The Committee also recommended certain cleanup, rehabilitation, and follow-up actions to guide Federal agencies involved in the return.

53. On August 12, 1968, President of the United States Lyndon B. Johnson announced, in a letter to the Secretary of Defense, armajor federal program to return us to Bikini Atoll, in the following words:

The Secretary of the Interior has reported to me that as special analysis of radiological levels of Bikini Atoll has resulted in the conclusion that the major islands of the atoll are now safe for human habitation. The Defense Department has also concluded that security requirements are such that the return of the former Bikini people to their traditional home can be accommodated.

The return of these people cannot, however, be accomplished overnight. There remains the major task of working with the Bikini leadership in planning the return, of removing any remaining sources of radiological contamination, of clearing the land and of replanting it to crops which will sustain human life and which will provide a source of income. New homes and new community facilities must be built with the active participation of the returning people. These tasks require resources beyond the means of the former Bikini people and of the Trust Territory Government. I, therefore, request you to work with the Secretary of the Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory in planning a comprehensive resettlement program and to assist them in carrying it out with all possible dispatch.

A copy of President Johnson's letter is attached as Exhibit A, and is incorporated herein by this reference.

- 51. President Johnson's letter, cited and quoted in the preceding paragraph, is a determination by the United States that, as of 1968, Bikini Atoll was no longer needed by the United States for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- 52. In carrying out the integrated, interagency program announced by President Johnson, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, and the Atomic Energy Commission entered into an agreement on primary responsibilities as follows:
- a. The Department of Defense would assume primary responsibility for cleanup aspects of the program, including the removal of radicactive debris;
- 5. The Department of the Interior would assume responsibility for agricultural reclamation, construction of housing and community facilities and resettlement aspects of the program; and
- c. the Atomic Energy Commission would provide guidance on radiological aspects of the program and conduct follow-up radiological surveys to confirm exposure estimates and conduct radiological monitoring of personnel as they returned to work or live at Bikini.
- 63. In August 1968 a group of our leaders was taken to Bikini to inspect our atoll. A photographic account of that inspection trip appeared in the Micronesian Reporter (published by the Trust Territory's Office of Public Information) issue for the first quarter of 1969. A copy of that account is attached as Exhibit B to this complaint.
- Energy Commission commenced the cleanup of debris and equipment from Bikini Atoll. At this time agricultural reclamation was also commenced with the removal of scrub vegetation and the planting of occount seedlings.
- 55. Except for a few infrequent and brief inspection visits
  to Bikini Atoll by a few of our leaders, none of our community was
  permitted togreturn to Bikini Atoll until June 1969. At that times

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signs Bikini men were brought to Bikini Atoll to assist in the initial singes of the resettlement program. In December 1969 an additional onew of twenty-three workers was brought from Kili to Bikini. Other members of our community have from time to time been employed in agricultural and construction activities related to the resettlement program since that time. There are presently a number of our community resident on Bikini Atoll, many with other members of their families.

- on Bikini Island in Bikini Atoll for our future use. The actual construction was done by Acme Importers, also known as Acme Construction Company, of Majuro, Marshall Islands, pursuant to a contract with the Trust Territory government. The resettlement program as planned called for the construction of thirty-eight additional houses, a school, church, store, and dispensary on Bikini Island before the 1977 target date for completion.
- Congress each year, by the Department of the Interior, certainsums have, since fiscal year 1969, been earmarked for expenditure on parts of the Bikini resettlement program. Upon information and belief, a significant portion of the sums so earmarked, has been transferred to another program or other programs within the Trust Territory since January 1, 1970. Such transfers by law require the prior approval of the Secretary of the Interior, as alleged in 124, supra.
- 63. Upon information and belief, the Atomic Energy Commission recommended that, in the reclamation of Bikini Atoll, and specifically with regard to the planting of crop trees on Bikini Island, that the Bikini Island soil be removed from the area surrounding the plantings and be replaced by soil from other less radioactive island or reef areas. Upon information and belief, the Atomic Energy Commission's recommendation was not followed.
  - 59. Upon information and belief, the Atomic Energy Commission

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Frindhed that the immediate environs of all houses constructed to Bikini Island be covered by coral aggregate and sand taken from other less radioactive island or reef areas. Upon information and belief, the Atomic Energy Commission's recommendation was not followed.

- To. Upon information and belief, the Atomic Energy Commission recommended that the coral aggregate and sand used in the mixing of concrete for the floor slabs, walls, and porches of houses and for rainwater cisterns on Bikini Island be taken from other less radicactive island or reef areas. Upon information and belief, the Atomic Energy Commission's recommendation was not followed.
- of the Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Operational Safety informed defendant Johnston that, from the radiological viewpoint, ground water on Bikini Island was safe to drink. A copy of Dr. Biles letter is attached as Exhibit C and is incorporated herein by this reference.
- 72. In Movember 1974 the Atomic Energy Commission informed the Department of the Interior of recent radiological findings and of the desirability of conducting a sophisticated "follow-on" radiology survey. As a consequence of this information, the Department of the Interior halted construction activities on Bikini
- 73. At an inter-agency Bikini Planning Meeting held on January 15, 1975 in Anaheim, California, Dr. Biles, (of the Atomic Energy Commission, now ERDA; see ¶ 71, supra) stated that new technological means for obtaining a more comprehensive radiological survey of Bikini had been developed since the original Bikini survey in 1967. He also stated that Federal regulations regarding radiological safety had become more stringent since that time.
- 74. On March 7, 1975, the then Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton, wrote to defendant Schlesinger as follows:

The resettlement of the Bikini Atoll which was used for nuclear weapons testing is resulting in a high degree of public, United Nations and Congressional interest. A Waster Plan has been developed, extensive crops planted, and -0 houses and a school have been built.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is prepared to construct 38 more houses and a dispensary in anticipation that some 500 Bikinians will be ready to return shortly. Recent radiological information indicates a need for a comprehensive follow-on survey so the project was halted. Despite assurances that the atoll is safe, the attitude and fears of the people are being influenced by various outside groups, many of whom are critics of the nuclear program. If we are to avoid disrupting the resettlement plans at Bikini, and the loss of our credibility with the people, we must answer the critics. To do this we need a great deal of additional data on the radiological situation at Bikini Atoll. Since the Bikini radiological surveys were made in the 1960's more sophisticated and sensitive instrumentation has become available. Accepted radiological practices have become more stringent and there has been extensive land clearing for planting crops, which may have affected the radiation situation on the islands.

The Energy Research and Development Administration is prepared to conduct an additional radiological survey of Eikini Atoll beginning in April if logistics support can be provided to include:

- 1. Two helicopters and an associated support platform for about 12 days of flight operations at Bikini Atoll.
- 2. Airlift from CONUS to Bikini Atoll and return for ERDA technical equipment and personnel.

There is a longer term problem of developing a current documentation of the residual radioactivity on all the islands that received fallout from U.S. nuclear weapons tests. This also could be accomplished, starting in April or later in the year, with ERDA providing the technical resources. Such a survey would require an additional 30 days of flight operations at several atolls.

As you know, neither the Energy Research and Development Administration nor the Department of the Interior have this kind of integrated logistics support capability. Since the situation has potentially serious political implications for the U.S. Government and the Administration, I strongly request that you consider providing the necessary support from Department of Defense resources. Your personal attention and early response would be greatly appreciated.

A copy of Secretary Morton's letter is attached as Exhibit D and is incorporated herein by this reference.

75. On May 29, 1975, Deputy Secretary of Defense William P. Clements, Jr., responded to Secretary Morton's letter by a letter

to defendant Acting Secretary of the Interior Kent Frizzell, informing him as follows:

This is in response to Secretary Morton's letter of March 7, 1975, requesting logistic support for the conduct of an additional radiological survey of Bixini Atoll and other islands that received fallout from U.S. nuclear weapons testing.

The assets required to support the survey had been tentatively identified, at a reimbursable cost of \$609,000. Members of your staff have advised, however, that the Department of Interior has no funds for reimbursement, therefore, we are unable to provide the requested support at this time.

We may be able to consider providing similar support at such time as you have funds available. However, since operational schedules are established well in advance, it is suggested that your requirements be made known sufficiently ahead of the desired implementation time in order to allow orderly planning and scheduling.

A stepy of Deputy Secretary Clements' letter is attached as Exhibit E and is incorporated herein by this reference.

To. On June 19, 1975, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Royston J. Hughes wrote to defendants Seamans and Schlesinger as

Recent developments have caused grave concerns as respects our responsibilities toward the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, primarily those of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, Utirik and Rongerik Atolls.

The cleanup of Bikini, in anticipation of the eventual settlement, was a joint effort among the Department of the Interior, Department of Defense, Atomic Energy Commission and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as set forth in the enclosed August 12, 1968, instructions from President Johnson. As we were proceeding with the construction program the Atomic Energy Commission, in Movember 1974, informed us of some recent radiological findings that caused us to stop the project. We were told that a sophisticated follow-on survey was highly desirable not only on Bikini but throughout the various nuclear test areas. To that end, Secretary Morton, in his March 7, 1975, letter to Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, requested logistics support for the Energy Research and Development Administration survey. Unfortunately, in Mr. Clements' May 29, 1975 reply, the Department of Defense could not provide this unless \$609,000 in costs could be reimbursed. The Department of the Interior was unable to identify funds

for this, nor could ERDA which was prepared to absorb all other related costs from monies already programmed. Consequently, we are deeply concerned that a quality radiological survey such as that performed on Enewetak, whose people will not be coming back for some time, cannot be made available in a timely fashion for the Bikinians whose return is imminent.

To compound the situation, on June 11 the Marshallese chief, who claims control over the atolls of Rongelap, Utirik and Rongerik, all accidental fallout areas from the 1954 Bravo test on Bikini, visited the Director of Territorial Affairs, claiming loss of use and other damage as a result of this event. He contends that the U.S. Government never presented the people with a briefing of any radiological survey conducted nor to date has told his people that Rongerik is habitable.

It is clear that the U.S. Government has and will continue to have for many years, a long-term responsibility for thorough monitoring of the radiological conditions of the atolls on and around the test sites, as well as the people who were fallout victims. In addition, our commitments to insure the safe return of the Bikinians and the people of Enewetak make it imperative that they and their environment be attended to with the best testing equipment available.

It appears that none of the involved Departments has oudgeted adequately for this needed and highly warranted effort in order to meet our statutory and moral commitments to the people of this area. This has become increasingly clear through staff level dialogs as well as the recent unsuccessful effort to perform the best possible survey on Bikini.

To better assess the problems and to determine exactly what remains to be done and who is responsible for funding and executing all or various segments of future radiological surveys and monitoring, I feel that an interagency meeting is essential. I therefore propose that key personnel from each Department meet at Interior on June 25, at 2:00 PM, whereupon ERDA can set forth its proposed program along with support requirements. If agreement on budgeting and support commitments cannot be reached, we will at least be in a position to present the problem to the Office of Management and Budget and seek further instructions. I am asking that this meeting be coordinated by the Director of Territorial Affairs. Staff contact can be made through Mr. Harry T. Brown at 343-4736.

We believe that the United States commitment under the Trusteeship Agreement required a strong reaffirmation by all concerned agencies, to work together in carrying out a comprehensive program, not only for Bikini or Enewetak, but all other involved areas in the Trust Territory which were touched by the 10-year testing program.

A copy of Assistant Secretary Hughes' letter to defendant Seamans is attached as Exhibit F and is incorporated herein by this reference.

- In June 1975, the Energy Research and Development Administration performed a radiological survey on Bikini and Enew Islands in Bikini Atoll. Upon information and belief, this survey was not conducted with the optimal technological equipment desired by the Energy Research and Development Administration and endorsed by Secretary of the Interior Morton in his letter of March 7, 1975 (¶ 74, supra). As Assistant Secretary Hughes said, it was "an unsuccessful effort to perform the best possible survey on Bikini" (¶ 76, supra).
- 78. On July 16, 1975, Dr. Martin Biles, Director of the Energy Research and Development Administration's Division of Operation Safety called an interagency meeting on the Bikini project, which was held at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in Livermore, California on August 12-13, 1975. In attendance at this meeting were representatives of the Department of the Interior; the Energy Research and Development Administration, and the Department of Lefense.
- 79. At the August 12-13 meeting, the Energy Research and
  Development Administration distributed two reports, both qualified
  as preliminary in nature and both dated August 6, 1975. These
  reports are Preliminary Report Radiological Evaluation of Phase II
  Housing Construction Bikini Atoll-August 1975 and Preliminary External
   Dose Estimates For Future Bikini Atoll Inhabitants, by Paul H.
  Budiksen and William L. Robison.
- 30. The general import of the reports cited in ¶ 79-is that if the Bikini resettlement program proceeds as previously planned and if we live in the houses completed and planned for on Bikini Island, we will receive external gamma radiation in excess of federally prescribed limits. Among other items, we were told that the groundwater at Bikini Island should only be used for agricultural purposes. The planned construction of thirty-eight additional houses, a church, a store, and a dispensary on Island, ¶ 55 supra, is now in abeyance.

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- 31. Mone of us is expert in assessing the risks to human health and safety of radiological hazards. Through the period of mulear testing at our own atoll and at Enewetak we became generally aware that radioactivity could be a significant imager to human life, health, and safety. We are aware of the fact that the inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll have been examined at frequent intervals by doctors under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission since their exposure to radioactive fallout from shot "Bravo" in 1954. We know of the recent death from leukemia of one of these Rongelapese, Lekoj Anjain, accounts of which are attached as Exhibits 3 and H to this complaint. We know that other Rongelapese have been taken to the United States for specialized medical treatment. Members of our own community employed at Bikini Atoll have also been examined at frequent intervals by distors under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission. We are also aware that the Atomic Energy Commission released, in October 1973, a three-volume radiological survey of Enewetak Atoll, also a nuclear test site, and that, in April 1975, the Defense Nuclear Agency, a part of the Department of Defense, released a five-volume environmental impact statement for the resettlement of Enewetak Atoll. The radiological survey was done as part of the study of the environmental impact of the Enewetak resettlement program and the impact statement was prepared by the Defense Nuclear Agency on behalf of the Department of Defense, Energy Research and Development Administration, and the Degartment of the Interior.
- 82. While we are apprehensive over possible dangers from radicactivity, our community is extremely anxious, for the reasons discussed in ¶¶ 29-41, 50 and 52-56 supra, to return to Bixini Atoll. Indeed, as mentioned in ¶ 65, supra, some members of our community are already residing on Bikini Atoll.
- 23. Until President Johnson announced the initiation of the Eikini resettlement program in 1968, ¶ 60, supra, we were

- In the Cotober 15, 1973 issue of <u>Highlights</u>, a publication of the Office of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman was quoted as saying, "If all is acceptable to the people, the Trust territory Government is prepared to allow them to return to Bikini Atoll permanently by Christmas this year." A copy of <u>Highlights</u> article is attached as Exhibit I and is incorporated herein by this reference. We were subsequently told that shipping problems caused our return to be postponed.
- Fig. In February 1974 a Department of the Interior news release announced that a first group of our people could be crought from Kili to resettle on Bikini Island in mid-April 1974
- in August 1975, 7 79 supra, is to tell us that we cannot safely reside on Bikini Island, where the only housing has been constructed, unless we adhere to certain prescribed restricted living patterns not previously disclosed to us and significantly different from our normal and usual living patterns.
- 27. At a meeting on Kili Island subsequent to the August
  1975 meeting at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, ¶¶ 78-79, supra,
  Mr. Roger Ray, Assistant Manager for Operations of the Nevada
  Cherations Office of the Energy Research and Development Administration
  represented to us that the Atomic Energy Commission had never
  recommended the construction of houses on Bikini Island, but in fact
  had recommended that Eneu Island be resettled first.
- Atoll, we must be able to weigh our desire to return against the

radiological risks of returning. We have not been provided with that information in a form that we can understand.

- 89. As we mentioned in paragraph 65, supra, some members of our community are presently residing on Bikini Island, Bikini Atoll. In light of the August 1975 reports, §§ 79 and 80, supra, recommending against permanent residences on Bikini Island, those Bikinians now living there must receive special consideration and attention.
- 90. Some of our people, approximately 30, went to Bikini about 1969 to work in the resettlement program. By 1972, three families who were especially anxious to go back were permitted to resettle on Bikini Island by the defendants. Since 1972 there have been a total of approximately 75 of our people, men, women and children, living on the same Bikini Island which the defendants now say should not be used for permanent residences. There also are some of us who have lived on Bikini Island during this period but who have subsequently moved to other islands or atolls in the Marshall Islands.

# The National Environmental Policy Act

91. The resettlement of Bikini Atoll is an ongoing major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The manner in which the program is conducted will have significant effects on our health and safety and, perhaps, our very lives. The manner in which the program is conducted will also have significant effects on the health, safety and, perhaps, lives of generations of Bikinians as yet unborn. In addition, the manner in which the program is conducted will have a significant effect upon our cultural and aesthetic values, upon our relative land rights among themselves, and upon our social structure and living patterns.

- 92. For the reasons given above, the defendants have an affire tive duty to fully investigate, assess, and report, in a detailed statement, the total environmental impact of the Bikini resettlement program. That full investigation, assessment, and report must include (1) an assessment, with the best technological means available, of the radiological safety of habitation of the various islands of Bikini Atoll; (2) an immediate and independent study of the health risks to those members of our community now residing on Bikini Island in Bikini Atoll; and (3) a comprehensive, detailed, and specific master plan to ensure reasonable economic self-sufficiency for us upon our resettlement of Bikini Atoll, all as alleged with greater particularity in paragraphs 98-110 infra. The substantive content of that environmental impact statement as well as preliminary or: draft environmental impact statements must be made known to us in a language that we can understand. Moreover, defendants have a clear obligation to consider that environmental impact, as expressed in a detailed statement, during the decision-making process with respect to the resettlement of Bikini Atoll.
- 93. No detailed environmental impact statement on the resettlement of Bikini Atoll has been prepared by defendants. Neither has any final environmental impact statement been considered by the defendants with respect to this program.
- 94. Planning, review, and implementation of the resettlement of Bikini Atoll has been carried on, and continues to be carried on, by defendants without reference to any final environmental impact statement. At an interagency meeting in Washington, D. C. on September 19, 1975, our counsel were informed by representatives of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and the Energy Research and Development Administration that none of those agencies has any present intention to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Bikini resettlement program.

# Trusteeship Agreement - Protection of Lands and Resources

- 95. Defendants, as high and responsible officials of the United States government, which is our trustee under the Trustee-ship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands, have affirmative obligations to protect us against the loss of our lands and resources. President Johnston's 1968 decision to initiate the resettlement of Bikini Atoll was in accordance with the obligations of the United States to protect Micronesians against the loss of their lands and resources.
- 96. Pursuant to their affirmative duties to protect us against the loss of our lands and resources, defendants have an affirmative duty to resettle us at Bikini Atoll in a condition of social, economic and physical well-being.
- 97. By failing to resettle us at Bikini Atoll in accondition of social, economic, and physical well-being, defendants have breache and are breaching their obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, as described in § 95 and 96, supra.

## Trusteeship Agreement - Protection of Health

98. Defendants, as high and responsible officials of the United States government, similarly have affirmative obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement to protect our health. Pursuant to those obligations, defendants have an immediate and affirmative duty to asses with the best technological means available, the radiological safety of habitation of the various islands of Bikini Atoll, to permit such assessment to be subjected to scrutiny by independent experts, the cost of said scrutiny by independent experts to be borne by defendants, and to make known to us in a language that we can understand, the results of such assessment and the comments, suggestions, and criticisms of independent experts. The Enewetak Radiological Survey, § 81, subra, sets a minimum standard for the quality of the comprehensive radiological survey which must be performed at Bikini Atoll.

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# THE PROMISED VOYAGE

# KILI

From Washington, from the Departments of Defense and Interior, from the Atomic Et et .. Commission, the message finally came. The radioactivity level was down and Bikir. nuclear stoll of the forties, pathing sub-order fifties and empty wasteland of the sixties could again be the site of a human community In late August the MV James Cross had let with government of the world press, needed for Kinds, at let where the back of the world press, needed for Kinds, a where the back of the Back of the people had be entering and the reason of the season of the sea remembering and perhaps ember shing. Some of the ociony had never seen the mother-island. Others had grown old is in the memories and others - including B kin : hereditary leader. Fing Judan - were deal: and buried far from home. Too late for could but for the three-hundred or so people of Bikini the time of their return, the era . possibility, was coming around. And so it a Cook's first island of call was Kin Where I is islanders set out from share in small 2, and 1,5 greet them, to shake hands on an plocar I to go ashore for more handshakes and since words of hope from High Commissions. william Norwood, Nine Bisman, [17:16] the ship's company and headed north wind the lave yogge to the number gottom, the specific young the number of the num











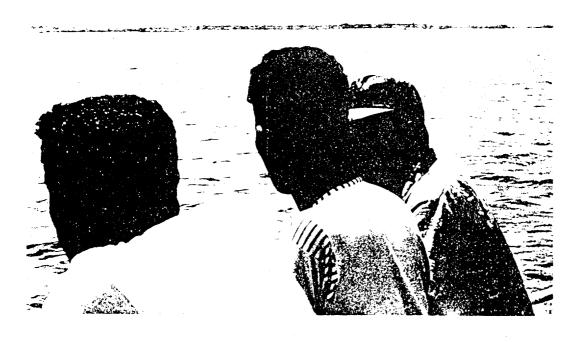
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# AT SEA

Observers nanced. Ittle outward excidement or tension on the north ward voyage but it was impossible not to wonder what they would find at Bikimi, it could not be the island the Bikimians remembered—not after those bombs—and the underlying question was what would be left of Bikimiand of the Bikimians memories and hopes, when the Cook reached is destination.









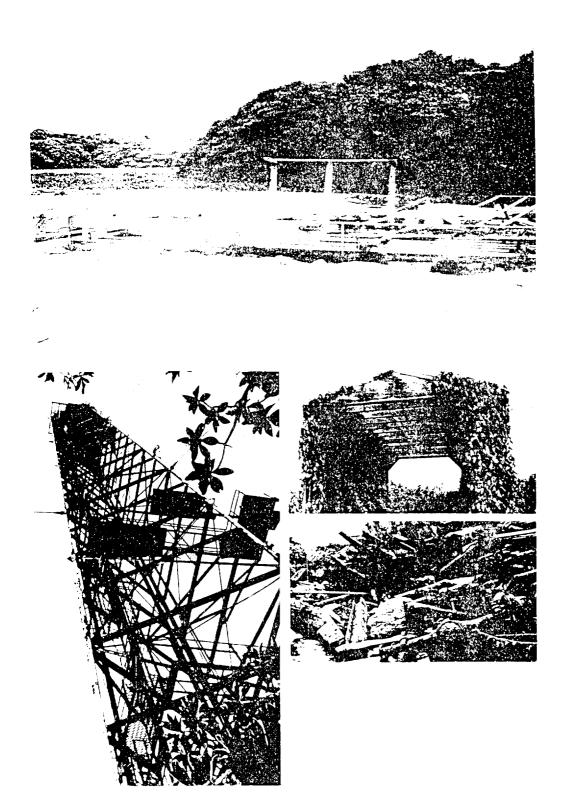
# BIKINI

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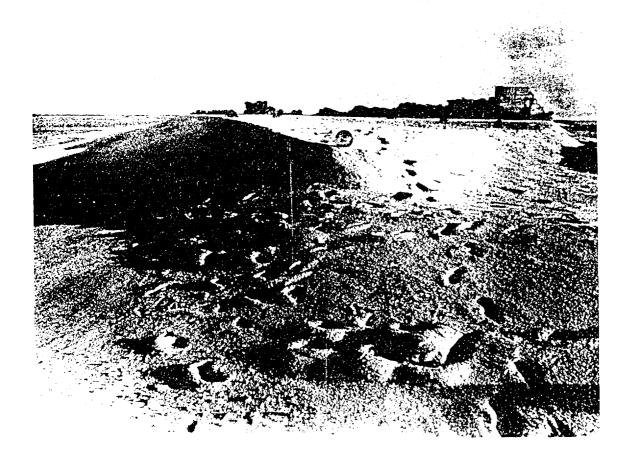
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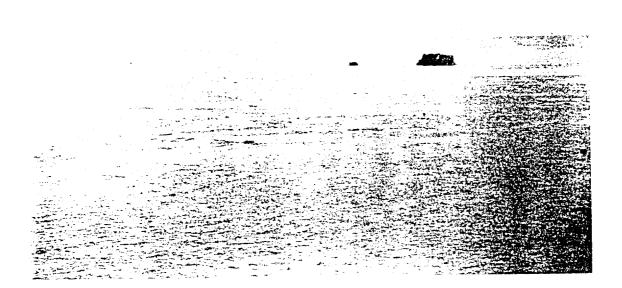
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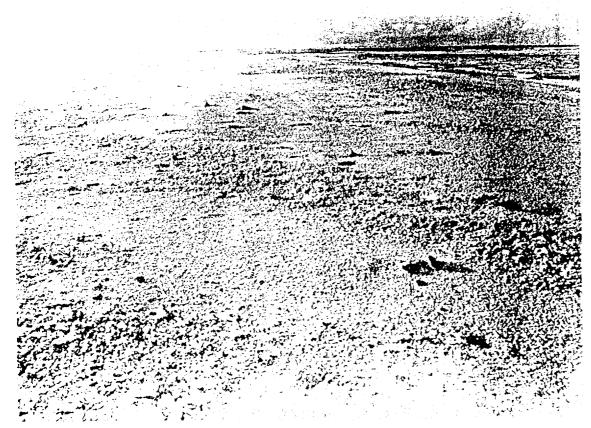
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